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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 10 March – 7 April 2021**

7 April 2021

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories:** No active warnings or advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) **RED SEA:** On 6 April, Iran-flagged commercial vessel SAVIZ reported an onboard explosion as the ship operated near Djibouti.
- B. (U) **GUINEA:** On 2 April, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Conakry Anchorage.
- C. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 1 April, an unknown vessel made a suspicious approach against an offshore supply vessel approximately 45 NM southwest of Bayelsa State.
- D. (U) **GUADELOUPE:** On 27 March, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored near Pigeon Island.
- E. (U) **COLOMBIA:** On 24 March, robbers boarded a tanker at Alpha Anchorage, Cartagena.
- F. (U) **GULF OF OMAN:** On 22 March, one skiff made a suspicious approach against a bulk carrier underway 11 NM northwest of Harf Ghabi, Oman.
- G. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 21 March, six persons, kidnapped on 15 March from a barge and tugboat in transit from Warri en route the Bonga oil field, were released.

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4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event that double-counting is detected, or an incident is later found to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) NORTH AMERICA: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA – CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA:

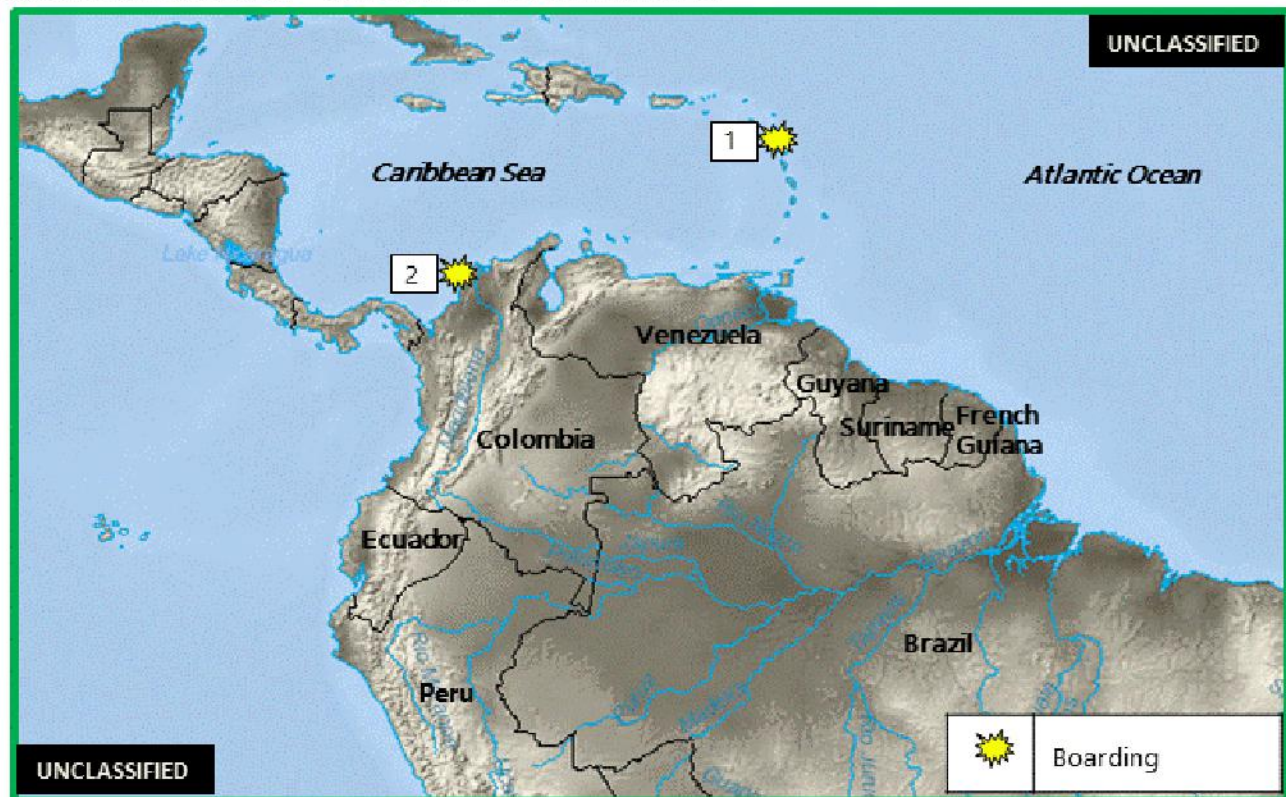


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GUADELOUPE: On 27 March, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored near Pigeon Island. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 24 March, robbers boarded a tanker at Cartagena Alpha Anchorage, near position 10:19N – 075:31W. While on routine rounds, a duty crewman spotted three robbers armed with knives. The alarm was raised, and an emergency broadcast was made to the harbormaster. The robbers then made their escape by lowering the mooring ropes and using a blue hulled motorboat. Three members of the coast guard carried out an investigation and found that several items of ship's properties were stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GRENADA: On 26 March, robbers stole a small outboard motor from a dinghy alongside an occupied yacht anchored near Hog Island. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

4. (U) GRENADA: On 25 March, robbers stole a small outboard motor from a dinghy alongside an occupied yacht anchored in Mt. Hartman Bay. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

5. (U) PERU: On 16 March, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:10W. The robbers managed to board the vessel, break into the forecastle storeroom and steal ship's properties without being spotted. The duty crew noticed the robbery had taken place while on routine rounds. (Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) PERU: On 16 March, eight robbers, armed with knives, boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:11W. A duty crew member was threatened and restrained by the robbers. The perpetrators were able to steal items of ship's property and then released the crew member before making their escape. The incident was reported to the local port authorities, which resulted in a coast guard patrol vessel being dispatched to assist. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) PERU: On 10 March, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:14W. The robbers, armed with knives, were spotted by a duty crewmember on the forward mooring station. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local Vessel Traffic Service, and a coast guard patrol vessel was tasked to search the waters surrounding the bulk carrier. (Clearwater Dynamics)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:



Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

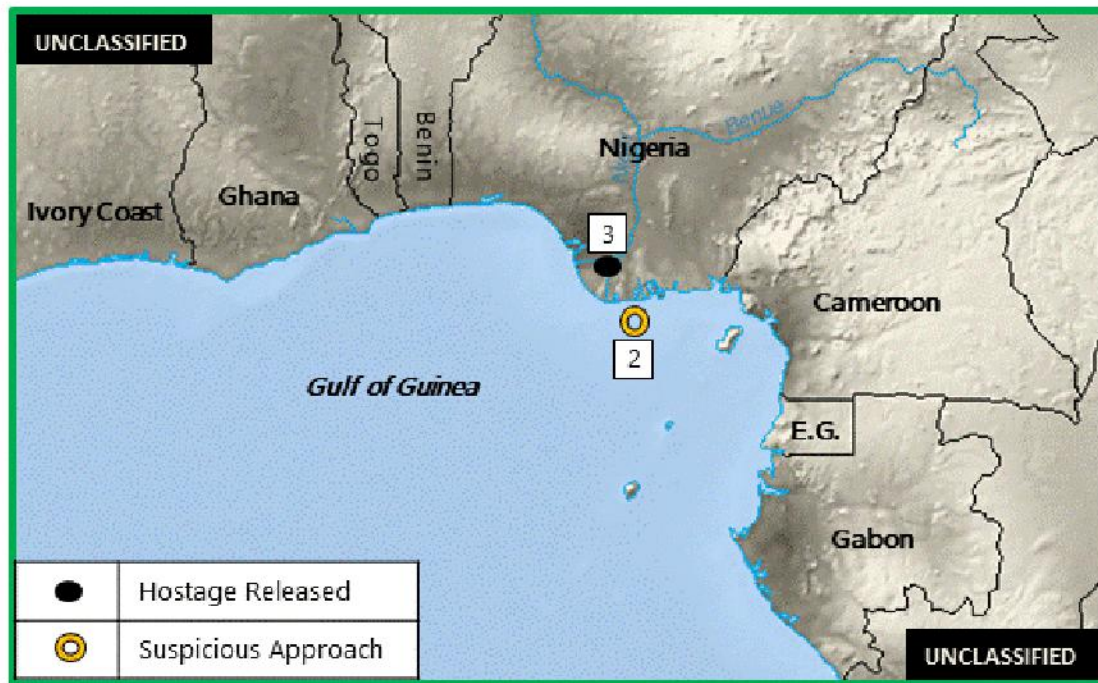


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GUINEA: On 2 April, four robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Conakry Anchorage, near position 09:14N – 013:49W. The robbers stole money and the crew's personal effects before escaping. The crew are reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 April, an unknown vessel made a suspicious approach against an offshore supply vessel approximately 45 NM southwest of Bayelsa State, near position 051:10N – 004:30E. The suspicious vessel was transiting showing no AIS and altering course in unison with the supply vessel at three miles. After possibly detecting the escort vessel, the suspicious vessel changed course and moved away. The suspicious vessel managed to approach to a distance of 0.5 NM. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 March, six persons, kidnapped from a barge and tugboat in transit from Warri en route the Bonga oil field, were released after 22 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 28 March, robbers boarded a container vessel at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:45S – 013:16E. The robbers managed to board the vessel and steal several items of ship's properties before being spotted by the duty crew. The crew raised the alarm and notified port authorities. The robbers fled in two wooden boats. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) LIBERIA: On 28 March, two robbers attempted to board a bulk carrier in Monrovia Anchorage, near position 06:20N – 010:52W. When port security spotted robbers trying to board the vessel, they raised the alarm. The robbers subsequently jumped into the water. No items were reported stolen in the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 March, robbers attacked a barge and tugboat near the entry channel to the Bonny River, near position 04:20N – 007:00E. Reports state that a number of perpetrators attacked the barge and tug boat while workers were being transported from Warri to the Bonga oil field via Bonny Island. Six persons are reported as being kidnapped. The captain of the tug boat is reported to have also been attacked, however it has not been clarified if he was kidnapped. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 March, pirates boarded the Luxembourg-flagged offshore supply vessel BOURBON EVOLUTION 802 approximately 208 NM south of Lagos near position 02:58N – 002:53E. The crew is safe and stayed in the citadel during the boarding. (IMB; www.maritimebulletin.net; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 March, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker DAVIDE B approximately 227 NM southwest of Lagos near position 02:47N – 002:35E. The pirates escaped with 15 kidnapped crewmembers. (IMB; Dryad Global; www.gcaptain.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) GHANA: On 11 March, four robbers boarded a drill ship anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:44N – 001:35W. The incident was reported to the local authorities and a security vessel was dispatched. No items were reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

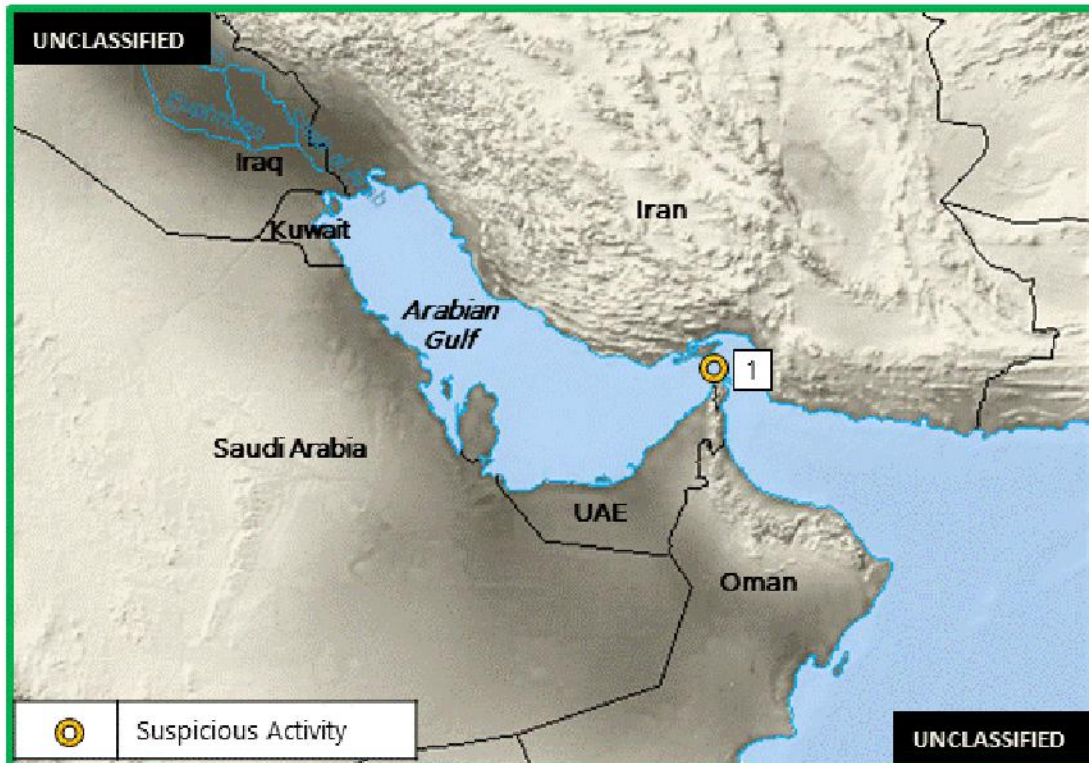


Figure 4. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 22 March, duty officer onboard a bulk carrier underway 11 NM northwest of Harf Ghabi, Oman, observed a skiff approaching at a high speed, near position 26:20N – 056:01E. The alarm was raised, the ship's horn was sounded, and speed was increased. At a distance of 40 meters, three armed and masked persons were observed in the skiff. The ship's VHF calls were acknowledged by a nearby European mission warship which proceeded to render assistance. After 20 minutes, the skiff moved away. The communication with the warship continued until the ship was safe. (IMB)

2. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 22 March, a vessel transiting the Strait of Hormuz reported a suspicious approach by one small grey boat with three persons onboard wearing masks. The approach occurred approximately 21 NM north of Mina Saqr, near position 26:20N 056:01E. (Dryad Global; IMB)

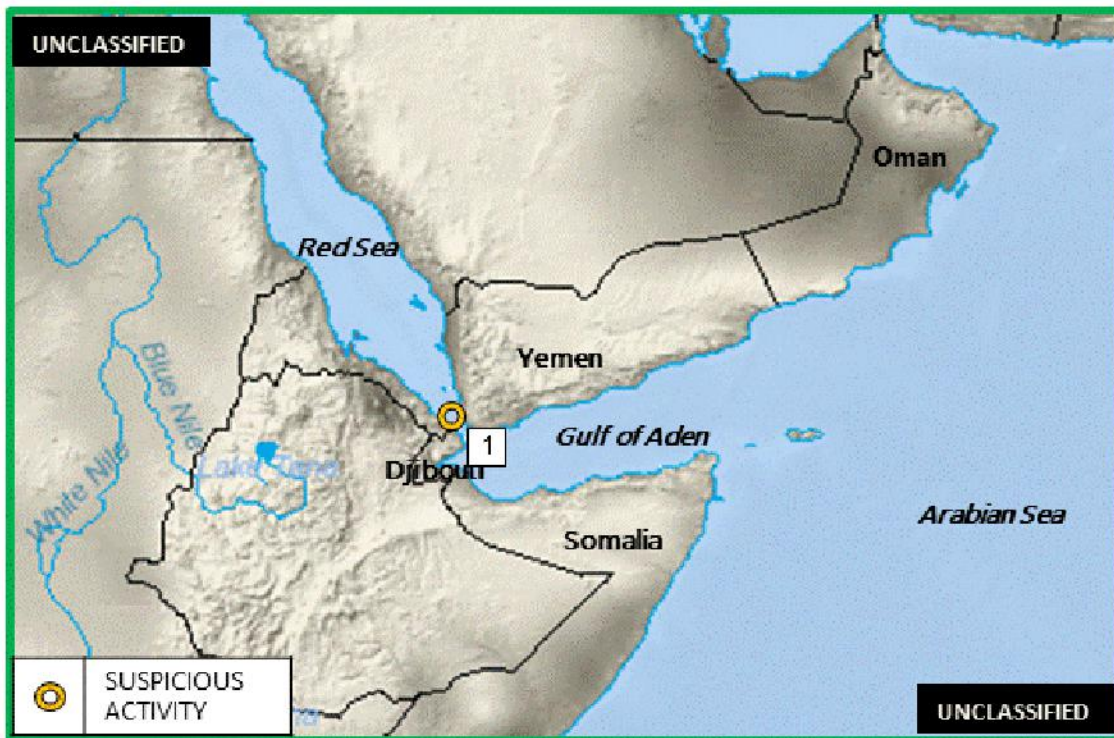
H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA:

Figure 5. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) RED SEA: On 6 April, Iran-flagged commercial vessel SAVIZ reported an onboard explosion as the ship operated near Djibouti. (www.france24.com)

2. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 26 March, insurgents reportedly briefly boarded two vessels in the harbor at Palma, during an insurgent-led siege of the city. More than 1,300 people have been evacuated from the city, mostly by ship. (www.dailymaverick.co.za; Dryad Global)

3. (U) SUEZ CANAL: On 23 March, the Panama-flagged container vessel EVER GIVEN ran aground and became lodged sideways while making a northbound transit of the canal, blocking the path of dozens of other vessels. Reports indicate that as many as 100 ships were trapped in lines in both directions. **UPDATE: EVER GIVEN was freed on 29 March by a flotilla of tugboats.** (www.maritime-executive.com; www.msn.com)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 March, robbers boarded a container vessel anchored at Zone F, Jakarta Anchorage, near position 06:02S - 106:48E. Crew members on routine rounds spotted the two robbers carrying sacks. When the crew shouted and pointed their flashlights at the robbers, the robbers fled from the port side, poop deck area. The crew conducted a search which revealed that the robbers had stolen items from the engine room. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 March, robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug boat in the Singapore Strait near position 01:12N - 103:31E. Robbers in two boats came alongside the barge, stole an attached buoy, and headed towards Tanjung Pelepas. The Master reported the incident via Vessel Traffic Service CH 73. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 March, five robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier AFRICAN QUEEN underway 6.1 NM northwest of Tanjung Pergram, Bintan Island, near position 01:17N - 104:18E. Master raised the

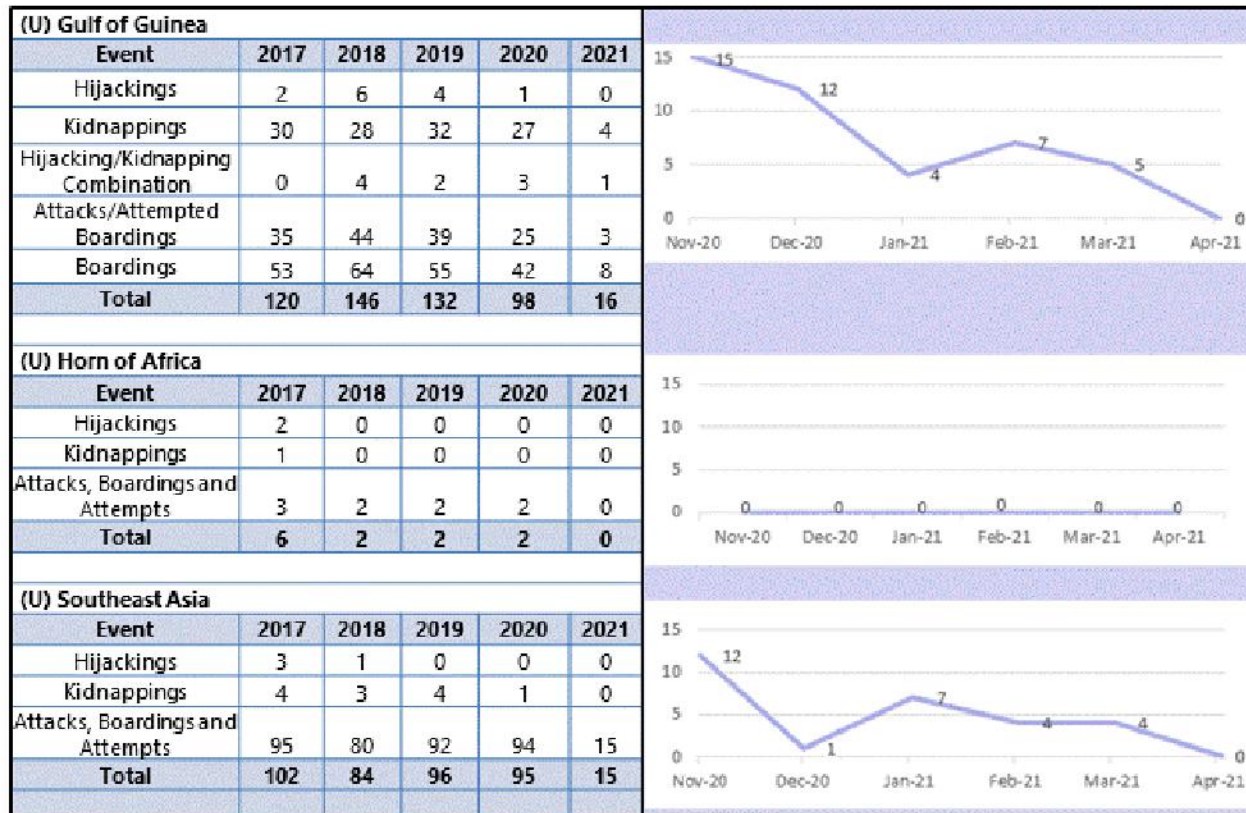
alarm, crew mustered, and a search was carried out. Engine spare parts reported stolen. Incident reported to local authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; IMB)

4. (U) VIETNAM: On 15 March, robbers boarded a moored bulk carrier at Campha Port. The robbers break into two crew cabins, stealing cash before making their escape. The local authorities were informed and an investigation was carried out. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:** No current incidents to report.

K. (U) **AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**



6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**

A. (U) **Definitions:** In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, we use the following definitions to describe a range of criminal antishipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis.

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized embarkation of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.

- (U) **Fired Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement who forcefully remove crew members from vessel when disembarking.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

B. (U) Sourcing: ONI derives information in this report primarily from government agencies, piracy reporting centers, maritime security companies, and open press.

(U) **ICOD:** 7 April 2021

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal:
<https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>